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General and complete disarmament

Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contents

	Page
Information received from Governments	2
Panama	2
Tunisia	2

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Information received from Governments

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[24 June 2002]

The Republic of Panama, as a non-nuclear-weapon country, recognizes the importance of the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ): situations involving the threat or use of nuclear weapons are subject to the same prohibitions, limitations and exceptions as the use of conventional force. In the conduct of its international relations, Panama adheres to the guidelines set forth in the advisory opinion, in that it has always participated in good faith in negotiations on arms control and non-proliferation. The Republic of Panama is a party to regional treaties aimed at creating a geographical area free of nuclear weapons and their related threats, such as the Treaty of Tlatelolco. However, it continues to attach the utmost importance to the launching of a globally applicable multilateral initiative that would effectively prohibit not only the threat or use of nuclear weapons but also their development, production, testing, stockpiling and transportation, aspects that are not expressly touched upon in the ICJ advisory opinion on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*.

Tunisia

[Original: Arabic]
[24 June 2002]

1. In resolution 56/24 S, the General Assembly underlined the conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament and requested all States to inform the Secretary-General of the measures they have taken to implement the resolution. Accordingly, the Assembly called upon all States Members of the United Nations to commence multilateral negotiations in 2002 leading to the conclusion of a convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination.

2. The measures taken by Tunisia in this regard are as follows:

- Ratification of most of the international instruments relating to nuclear weapons;
- Participation in the work of the League of Arab States technical committee on the elaboration of a convention to convert the Middle East into a nuclear-weapon-free zone;
- Agreement on the establishment in the Thala area of two verification stations to monitor nuclear tests as part of the global verification regime of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization;
- Consideration at the present time of an additional protocol to the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement concluded with the International Atomic Energy Agency in 1990 in the context of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.